

Re: Request from the RCMP to temporarily suspend operations at the Coutts POE

From: "Ossowski, John" <john.ossowski@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
To: "Mendicino, Marco - Personal" <[irrelevant]@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: "Jones, Mike" <mike.jones@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Lucki, Brenda" <brenda.lucki@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, "Stewart, Rob" <rob.stewart@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Johnston, Jag (Ext.)" <jag.johnston@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Date: Sat, 12 Feb 2022 15:29:04 +0000

Thank you Minister

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2022, at 10:28 AM, Mendicino, Marco - Personal <[irrelevant]@parl.gc.ca> wrote:

Good morning . Approve of this request. Keep me posted. Thx John.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Ossowski, John <John.Ossowski@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2022 9:24:38 AM
To: Mendicino, Marco - Personal <[irrelevant]@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: Jones, Mike <Mike.Jones@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Lucki, Brenda <brenda.lucki@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>; Stewart, Rob <Rob.Stewart@PS-SP.GC.CA>; Johnston, Jag <Jag.Johnston@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Subject: Request from the RCMP to temporarily suspend operations at the Coutts POE Minister,

As you are aware, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is very concerned about the extended illegal occupations occurring across the country that are having a direct impact on our supply chain and economy. The presence of the truck convoys and civil disobedience protests are a cause of concern for not only the CBSA but also the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and local law enforcement, who have been enforcing public safety.

The CBSA recognizes that border disruptions affect both travellers and the commercial industry and are working collaboratively with law enforcement partners to restore normal border operations at affected ports of entry (POE) as quickly as possible.

The Coutts POE, located in Alberta, is one of the sites where a group of protestors have been blockading since January 29, 2022. While the Coutts, AB POE remains open, there is no traveller access due to a demonstration that has created a blockade immediately north of the border crossing. The RCMP had managed to negotiate a partial opening in the blockade, which allowed the safe passage of vehicles having a legitimate rationale for accessing and crossing the border. However, as of the evening of February 9, 2022, the protestors have rescinded on the terms of negotiation and blocked the POE until their demands to the Federal and Provincial Governments have been met.

In order to ensure collective control over vehicle access to the protest site and public safety, the RCMP has requested¹ that the CBSA temporarily suspend border clearance services at the Coutts POE. This temporary measure would also ensure CBSA officer safety and will remain in effect until the protestors are agreeable to allowing public and commercial traffic to flow through the POE. Although the office would remain operational, the CBSA would notify clients and stakeholders that CBSA border clearance at the port of Coutts is temporarily suspended to the ongoing public safety situation in the immediate vicinity of the port of entry.

A portion of CBSA workforce normally assigned to the Coutts POE will be assigned to adjacent CBSA offices within the immediate area to allow for processing of clients unable to enter Canada at Coutts. A contingent of CBSA officers still will remain at the Coutts AB POE to ensure that the port is capable of providing border clearance for emergency services as per local mutual aid agreements between the Province of Alberta and the State of Montana.

As the situation remains fluid, the CBSA is making you aware of this request and our intent to suspend the CBSA services at the Coutts POE effective Saturday, February 12 at 13:00 MT. At this time, the CBSA is not seeking the formal closure of this office as we anticipate that resumption of border services will expeditiously be required once the RCMP are able to dismantle the blockade that is currently underway in the vicinity of the town of Coutts, AB.

Happy to answer any questions you might have on this,

John